

H.H. Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned , UNESCO Special Envoy on basic and higher education

Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned has been actively engaged in education and other social reforms in Qatar for many years and has played a major role in spearheading various national and international development projects.

She currently serves as Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, a private non-profit organization founded in 1995 on the personal initiative of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. In autumn 2003, Qatar Foundation inaugurated Education City, a prototypical university of the future, bringing branches of renowned international universities to Qatar to provide top class degree programs and to share research and community-based ventures.

In addition to her work at Qatar Foundation, Her Highness serves as President of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, a government institution with the aim of strengthening the role of the family in society, and Vice Chair of the Supreme Education Council which oversees the on-going comprehensive reform of Qatar's K-12 education system. In addition, she is Chairperson of the Sidra Medical and Research Center project to build a premier academic medical center in Qatar; Chairperson of the Silatech initiative to address the growing challenge of youth employment in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region; and Chairperson of the Arab Democracy Foundation based in Doha.

Her Highness plays an important role on the international stage as well. In 2003, UNESCO appointed her Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education. In this capacity, she actively promotes various international projects to improve the quality and accessibility of education worldwide. In June 2003, she established the International Fund for Higher Education in Iraq which is dedicated to the rehabilitation of institutions of advanced learning. In 2005, she was selected as a Member of the High Level Group for the UN Alliance of Civilizations which was established by then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Her Highness graduated from Qatar University in 1986 with a degree in sociology. She has been awarded honorary doctorates from Virginia Commonwealth University, Texas A&M University, Carnegie Mellon University, Imperial College London, and Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

In 2007, Her Highness was awarded the Chatham House Award in recognition of her commitment to progressive education and community welfare in Qatar and her strong advocacy of closer relations between Islamic countries and the West. This prestigious annual award is given to a leading international statesperson deemed to have made the most significant contribution to the improvement of international relations in the previous year. Also in 2007, Forbes magazine named Her Highness one of the 100 most powerful women in the world, and The Times of London named her one of the 25 most influential business leaders in the Middle East. For more information, please see <http://www.mozahbintnasser.qa>.